

YEAR 2002 TAIWANESE-AMERICAN
HERITAGE WEEK

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity during Taiwanese-American Heritage Week to congratulate the Taiwanese American community in Connecticut. Taiwanese Americans have made enormous contributions to the diversity and prosperity of American society. They have succeeded in American society because they are instilled with the values that make this country great. Both here and in Taiwan they have demonstrated a commitment to democracy. They also realize the rewards of education, with more than 40 percent of Taiwanese Americans attaining college degrees. They work to develop communities, with home ownership amongst Taiwanese Americans above 70 percent. Their personal achievements are another expression of the secure and fruitful friendship between the United States and Taiwan.

THE NATIONAL DROUGHT
PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2002

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Drought Preparedness Act of 2002. I am fortunate to have the support of the many bipartisan original cosponsors. In addition, this bill is the companion bill to the Domenici-Baucus bill also being introduced in the Senate today. I do hope that both bodies will work together and pass this bill immediately.

I became interested in drought relief last summer when Florida found itself in the most prolonged drought it had seen in nearly 20 years. The water level in Lake Okeehobee, our country's 2nd largest fresh water lake and located in my District, had decreased by nearly 25 percent.

Not only did the water shortage in the lake cause problems for agriculture and water management, but it also destroyed the economic well being of small businesses around the Lake who depend on it for income. Realize this too, the clear majority of these businesses are owned by minorities or families who struggle to get by every day.

As I began to try and help the towns and businesses surrounding the Lake in locating temporary assistance, even if it was only low interest loans, I found that unless you were involved in agriculture, assistance is virtually impossible. When it is possible, the loops folks need to jump through just to get it are so discouraging that they don't even try.

Realize, drought is not just an agriculture issue, nor is it only a water management issue. When droughts occur, forest fires erupt, small businesses close, and in many instances, people die.

Congress and FEMA define drought as a natural disaster, and it's about time that we start treating them as such.

Yesterday, while I was attending the Florida Congressional Delegation meeting, the entire meeting focused on hurricanes and the plans that are currently in place in Florida, which are the framework of how we respond to hurricanes. The bill we are introducing today provides a new focus on an otherwise often ignored natural disaster.

The creation of a coordinated and comprehensive National Drought Council will provide efficient and time sensitive coordination between federal agencies in preparing for and responding to droughts, as well as assisting Congress in identifying our immediate and long term needs in providing drought relief.

Mr. Speaker, we must move the country away from the costly, ad-hoc, response-oriented approach to drought, and toward a proactive, preparedness approach. Coordination between federal, state, and local governments is the only way we will accomplish this difficult task.

I am looking forward to working with my colleagues and moving this bill forward. Americans are hurting throughout this country today because of water shortages and prolonged droughts. Congress must act immediately, time is of the essence.

350TH ANNIVERSARY OF
LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize the town of Lancaster, Massachusetts on its upcoming 350th anniversary. Lancaster was incorporated in 1653, and is the oldest town in Worcester County. Lancaster is the town from which the surrounding towns of Harvard, Bolton, Leominster, Sterling, Berlin, and Clinton were formed. Lancaster was the home to Mary Rowlandson, whose 1682 narrative of her captivity during King Philip's War was one of the most popular books of the 17th century.

Mr. Speaker, the fifth meetinghouse of the First Church of Christ in Lancaster was designed by Boston architect Charles Bullfinch and is a nationally recognized gem of American architecture. The well-known publishing firm of Carter and Andrews issued illustrated children's books and textbooks in Lancaster between 1828 and 1834. Lancaster was the birthplace in 1849 of horticulturist Luther Burbank, the progressive Industrial School for Girls, the first reform school set up on the cottage system, was established in Lancaster in 1854. The South Lancaster Village Church of the Seventh-Day Adventists was dedicated in 1878 and the South Lancaster Academy (predecessor of Atlantic Union College) was opened in 1882. Henry Stedman Nourse, noted historian and public servant at the state and local levels, spent the greater part of his life in Lancaster. The Rev. Edmund Hamilton Sears, who wrote the Christmas hymn "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," was the seventh minister of Lancaster's First Church of Christ. The Lancaster Town Library, established in 1862, offers a rich and unusual collection of valuable research materials, including a copy of the Nuremberg Chronicle of 1493 and a folio edition of Audubon's The

Birds of America. Citizens of Lancaster have served America honorably in all wars and conflicts since the 17th century.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few of the many great things about the Town of Lancaster, which I am honored to represent in Congress. I ask that the whole House join me in congratulating the people of Lancaster as they celebrate the town's 350th anniversary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ALL PARTIES MUST ACT NOW TO
STOP ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN
MIDDLE EAST

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the State of Israel and for the security of both the Israeli and Palestinian people and condemn the violence suffered by both communities.

If there is to be a safe and stable environment in the Middle East, the rights and safety of all people in the region must be protected.

Continued military attacks and terrorist activities will only lead to escalating violence and potential destabilization of the Middle East and neighboring regions. For that reason, I believe the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1397 calling for the immediate cessation of all acts of violence between Israel and the Palestinians must be honored.

The United States must do its part and work vigorously and fairly with the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority to help establish a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, as outlined in House Resolution 394, sponsored by my colleague PETER DEFAZIO.

All parties must act now to put a stop to the escalating violence because all people in the region deserve to live in lasting peace.

MINNESOTA REP. DARLENE
LUTHER'S LASTING LEGACY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, we have all learned in the last eight months how fragile life can be, and how nobility and grace can rise from tragedy and sadness.

We have all mourned recently with our colleague Bill Luther the loss of his beloved wife, Darlene, who was a distinguished member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, as well as a loving wife and mother of Alex and Alicia Luther.

Mr. Speaker, I was profoundly moved by a recent story from the Fergus Falls Journal which reflects the great love Darlene and Bill shared for each other, as well as others.

The story, by Mary Mahoney, also speaks volumes about the enduring power of human kindness.

Because I would like to share this beautiful story of love, sacrifice and the enduring bond of friendship, I respectfully submit for the record the enclosed article from the Fergus